# Winning the "Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval"

Safety Issues Surrounding Our Custodial Workers

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### CUSTODIAL WORKERS

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Sprains

Strains

Slips Trips Falls

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Sanitation

Lifting

Ladders

## Injury Data

What's happening Nationally?

How about in Virginia?

Have you reviewed your injury data?

## Slips, Trips and Falls



## Sprains and Strains



### Slips, Trips and Falls

(Wet or Oily Surfaces, Spills, Ice, Rugs or Mats, Worn Flooring, Obstructed View, Poor Lighting, Clutter, Uncovered Cables, and Uneven Walking Surfaces)





## Slips, Trips & Falls Awareness

- Importance of good housekeeping
- Quality of walking surfaces
- Selection of proper footwear
- Pace of work
- Inclement weather
- Falling safely
- Reporting hazards
- Use of ladders

### Sprains and Strains

(Lifting, Twisting, Pushing, Pulling, Holding, Carrying, Reaching, Jumping, Using a Tool or Machine, Throwing, and Wielding)





### Sprains and Strains Awareness

- Back injuries
- Back anatomy
- Causes/types of back problems
- Causes of back injuries
- Zones of lifting
- Proper lifting technique
- Equipment to assist lifts
- Snow shoveling
- Back strengthening exercises
- Use of back belts

### Hazardous Material

- Chemicals
- Asbestos
- Dust
- Lead-Based Paint
- Radioactive Material







### Chemical Safety (HAZCOM)

- MSDSs
- PPE use
- Labeling
- Mixing
- Usage
- Spill Response
- Substitution
- Disposal



### Biological Organisms

- Bloodborne Pathogens
- (blood spills, sanitary napkin receptacles, medical waste)
- Infectious Material
   (body fluids urine, feces, vomit)
- Mold



# Personal Protective Equipment and Clothing

- Eye
- Hand
- Body
- Respiratory
- Head
- Feet
- Hearing



### **Equipment and Tools**

- Ladders and Step-Stools
- Carts
- Electrical Equipment
- Sharp Tools
- Fire Extinguishers
- Ergonomics



### Ladder Safety

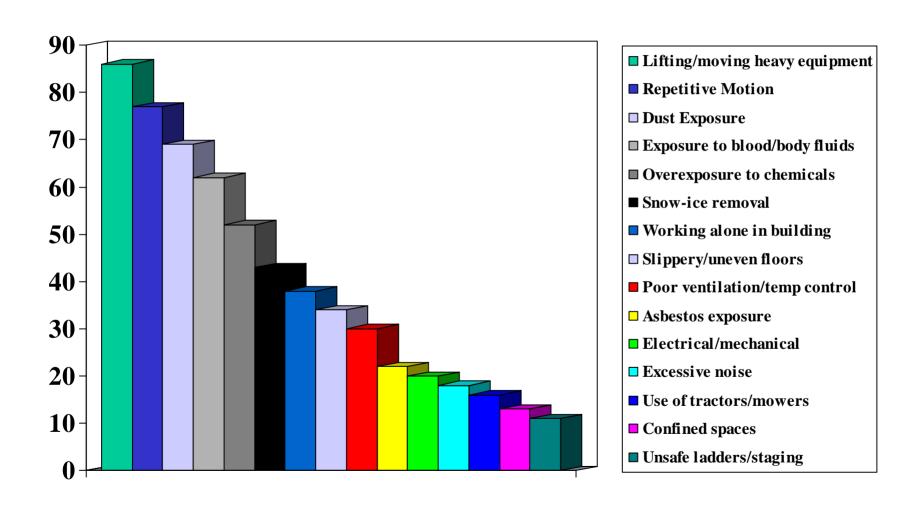
- Inspecting ladders
- Sizing ladders for job
- Ladder placement
- Body placement
- Climbing technique



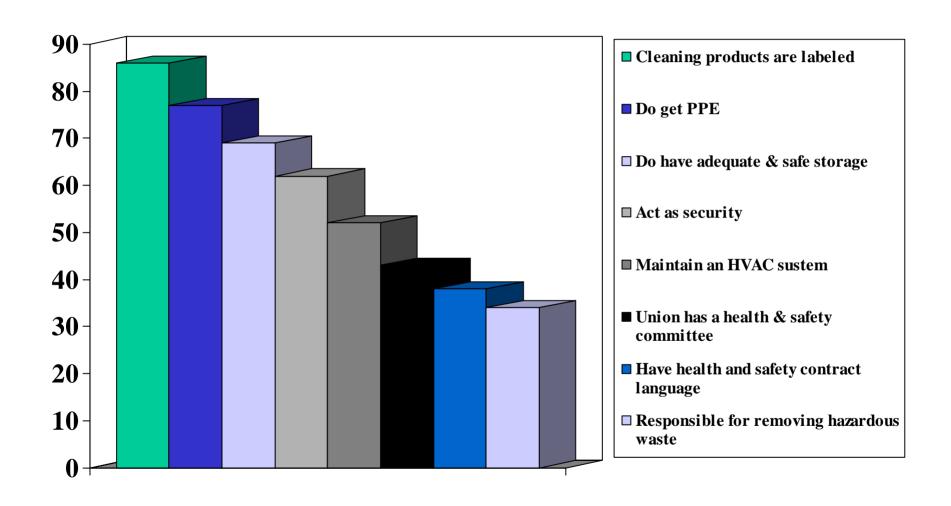
# What Do Custodial Workers Have to Say About Workplace Safety?

(Survey conducted by the American Federation of Teachers on K-12, college, and university custodial workers)

### Rating Job Hazards

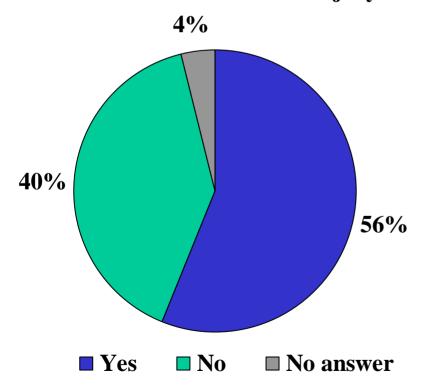


### Workplace Concerns and Safety Issues

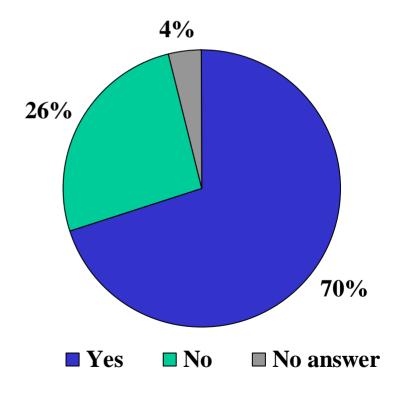


### Work-Related Injuries

Have had a work-related injury



#### Missed work because of injury



# Old Dominion University's Effort in Addressing Custodial Worker Safety

### Communication

- Develop an open line of communication and good working relationship
- Develop trust
- Provide a means for reporting safety concerns
- Assess their safety needs and perceptions
- Provide them with resources
- Keep them abreast of regulatory changes, new products, training opportunities, etc.

### Incident Analysis

(Accident Investigation)

- Follow up on all reported accidents and near misses
- Provide constructive feedback and recommendations for corrective action and/or training
- Track data collected

### Job Hazard Analysis

- Carefully study and record each step of a job
- Identify existing or potential job hazards (both safety and health)
- Determine the best way to perform the job or to reduce or eliminate these hazards (requires review and feedback from Housekeepers)
- Review the JHA periodically and make changes as needed

#### Custodial Services – Job Hazard Analysis

Custodial Worker – performs routine manual work in cleaning, servicing, and stocking supplies in various University facilities

Task	Hazards	Training/Controls
(General)		
Use of cleaning chemicals	Chemical exposures and spills	HAZCOM training, use of non-hazardous substitutes, fire extinguisher training
Constant lifting, bending, stooping	Sprains and strains	Back Safety training, ergonomic controls (equipment)
Work around slippery and uneven work surfaces	Slips, trips and falls	Slips, Trips and Falls training, slip- resistant footwear required
Cleaning restrooms and body fluid spills (not blood)	Exposure to infectious material	General Infection Control training
Use of Ladders and stepstools	Fall	Slips, Trips, and Falls and Ladder Safety training
Use of electrical equipment	Electric shock	General training by department, purchase of UL listed equipment
Transportation via motorized vehicle or golf cart	Vehicular accident	Must possess valid driver's license, Non- motorized Vehicle Safety training

#### Custodial Services – Job Hazard Analysis Continued

Custodial Worker – performs routine manual work in cleaning, servicing, and stocking supplies in various University facilities

Task	Hazards	Controls/Training
(Specific)		
Work in buildings with asbestos- containing material	Exposure to asbestos	Asbestos Awareness training
Work in radiation laboratory facilities	Exposure to radioactive material	Radiation Safety for Ancillary Personnel training
Work in facilities where regulated medical waste is	Exposure to blood and OPIMs	Bloodborne Pathogen training
generated Use of forklift for moving supplies	Tip over, pinch points, etc.	Forklift Safety training (hands on and classroom)
Use of extremely hazardous chemicals, mold clean up, bird dropping clean up	Exposure or biological agent	Respiratory Protection Training, PPE training

### Training

- New employee orientation training
- Environmental Health & Safety Office training
- Monthly departmental training
- Online training with Blackboard
- DHRM and VOSH training (or any other free or inexpensive and local training opportunities)

# What are you doing about custodial worker safety?

Please share your ideas and success stories.